

Application No.: 10/714,400**Docket No.: 1519-038****ABSTRACT**

A circuit board (14) on which the electronic components (2,3) providing power to a series of light sources (6) is positioned as near as possible to light sources in order to minimise parasitic energy losses which would be introduced by lengths of wiring. The light sources (5) are usually elongate tubular Cold Cathode Fluorescent Tubes arranged parallel to one another in a single plane and the circuit board (14) may be mounted directly over the light sources, towards one end of the tubes. Standard PCB board-to-board connectors (12) may be provided at an edge of the circuit board (14) and a further circuit board (10) provided with a series of conductive tracks may provide both a mechanical and electrical connection between the circuit board (14) and the light sources (5). A power distribution method is also disclosed in which both current and temperature of the light sources are monitored and regulated in order to extend the lifetime of the light sources (5) and to stabilise their brightness.

(Figure 1a)